

## Gadhafi: Weather caused Lockerbie crash

ROME (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said the weather caused the 1988 Lockerbie airliner disaster which killed 270 people — not a Libyan bomb as charged by the United States and Britain. "The technical reports on the cause of the crash of Pan Am Flight 103 show that it was not provoked by an explosion but by meteorological conditions," Col. Qadhafi said in an interview televised on Italy's private Telemontecarlo network Monday. He said the unidentified report determined that the Boeing 747 exploded only after it crashed on to the Scottish town of Lockerbie and ploughed through a petrol station. "All this notwithstanding, the investigators followed the hypothesis that the explosion took place in the air," he said. British and U.S. investigators focused almost immediately on sabotage as the likely cause of the crash. Pan Am 103 was flying at about 9,500 metres when radio contact was suddenly lost, without a distress call. The three-year probe to indictments last month of Libyans Abdul Basset Ali Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah for planting a bomb on the jet.

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جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية العربية «الرأي»

## Iraq: Shortages killed 80,000 children

CAIRO (R) — Iraq said Tuesday that 80,000 of its children have died because of shortages caused by U.N. sanctions imposed over its invasion of Kuwait. "More than 80,000 children under the age of five have died so far," envoy Nabil Nejm Al Takriti said after handing the Cairo-based Arab League a list of urgently-needed medical supplies. "The sanctions threaten further death among children, women and old people," said Mr. Takriti, Baghdad's emissary to the 21-member league. Mr. Takriti asked Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid to urge member states to send it medicine. The envoy said Iraq had run out of key drugs including cancer treatments. Iraq said last month that 65,000 children had died because of shortages of food and medicine and another 350,000 were at risk that month. The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) said the figures were realistic. Medicines and essential food are excluded from the U.N. embargo but some of Iraq's foreign assets are frozen, leaving it short of hard currency. (No quick easing of sanctions, page 2)

## King thanks Abu Hassan, Abu Ghazaleh

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent letters to former Royal Jordanian (RJ) Chairman Khalid Abu Hassan and former RJ director general Husein Abu Ghazaleh to thank them for their sincere efforts while serving in the national security sector. Mr. Abu Hassan and Mr. Abu Ghazaleh resigned from their posts recently.

## Syria pardons 2,864 political prisoners

DAMASCUS (R) — President Hafez Al Assad has pardoned 2,864 prisoners who committed crimes against national security, Syrian Interior Minister Mohammad Harba announced Tuesday.

He said all those pardoned were being freed immediately. He gave no further details. Diplomats said most of those pardoned were members of the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood who committed armed attacks against the state. The pardons follow Mr. Assad's reelection for a fourth consecutive term on Dec. 2. Officials said he got over 99 percent of the vote in a yes-or-no referendum.

## Italian police arrest suspected guerrilla

ROME (R) — Italian police said on Tuesday they were holding an Arab suspected of working for guerrilla leader Abu Nidal. Khaled Birawi Thamer, 31, and five Italians were held on charges of belonging to outlawed guerrilla groups, they said. Thamer, detained in Rome on Monday and accused of subversive association and membership of an armed band, is suspected by investigators of belonging to Fatah Revolutionary Council, the tightest clandestine organization led by Abu Nidal. The Italians, four men and a woman, were taken into custody in Bologna as suspected members of the left-wing group called Red Brigades-Urban Guerrillas for Communism. Documents found during the Bologna raid showed the group had contact with urban guerrillas of Germany's Red Army faction and the French Action Directe group, police said.

## Woman named British spy chief

LONDON (AP) — Britain Monday announced that a 56-year-old woman would become the next head of its domestic intelligence service — a position that did not officially exist until two years ago. Stella Rimington, deputy to the current director general of MI5, Sir Patrick Walker, is the second woman to hold the position. Her appointment is effective in February when Mr. Walker retires. Mrs. Rimington, a member of the security services for 22 years, will be responsible for all counter-intelligence activities in Britain and Northern Ireland. "This is not a mere civil service appointment," said Chapman, a veteran writer on espionage. The head of MI5 is an administrator who is ultimately responsible for directing counter-espionage operations and co-ordinating with other security organisations, he said. The job pays £77,500 pounds (\$140,000) a year.

## Picco sent back to Mideast

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Tuesday that he has sent his hostage negotiator, Giandomenico Picco, back to the Mideast to try to wrap up the problem of missing and detained persons. "He is always where I need him," Mr. Perez de Cuellar said as he entered U.N. headquarters. When asked whether Mr. Picco was currently needed in the Middle East, the U.N. chief chuckled and nodded affirmatively. Mr. Perez de Cuellar was said he is trying to win freedom for the last Western hostages held in Lebanon, German relief workers Thomas Kemptner and Heinrich Struebig, resolve the problem of missing Israeli aircrewmen, persuade Israel to release up to 300 Arab detainees it holds in southern Lebanon, recover the bodies of slain American hostages and learn the fate of five missing Iranians, believed kidnapped and killed in Lebanon.

SAFAGA, Egypt (Agencies) — The Egyptian navy, helped by amateur divers, brought ashore 35 corpses Tuesday from the sunken ferry Salem Express.

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answer."

The ferry hit a reef and sank late on Saturday as it took more than 650 crew and passengers, mostly Egyptian pilgrims and workers returning from Saudi Arabia, to the port of Safaga.

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That prospect prompted authorities to intensify security against possible trouble. More than 1,000 relatives of passengers and crewmen have converged on Safaga for news of loved ones since word spread of the sinking.

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The Palestinian side was scheduled to meet Mr. Djerejian and his aides at 3 p.m. (Washington time) to discuss the multilaterals, and another session between the Arab and Israeli negotiators was planned for 5 p.m.

In the morning session, Dr. Majali and Dr. Abdul Shafiq handed Mr. Rubenstein a joint letter in which the said Israeli insistence on assigning the joint delegation the role of "a third

(Continued on page 5)

## Washington stand-off continues; co-sponsors may have to step in

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters in Washington

JORDANIAN AND Palestinian chief negotiators failed to reach agreement with their Israeli counterpart yesterday on splitting the talks into two separate tracks, throwing the door open for the Americans to intervene in an effort to break the deadlock.

Abdul Salam Majali and Haidar Abdul Shafiq met again with the leader of the Israeli delegation, Elyakim Rubenstein, in the corridor of the State Department, but the session produced no accord on Arab insistence for separate Palestinian representation and Israeli rejection of this principle.

The talks recessed at 1 p.m. (Washington time) when the Jordanian side had to meet with State Department officials for a pre-scheduled session on multilateral talks.

Dr. Majali later held a one-on-one session with Assistant Secretary of State for Near-East Affairs Edward Djerejian and discussed with him the deadlock reached with the Israelis in the bilateral talks.

According to well-informed sources, Mr. Djerejian heard Dr. Majali's assessment and briefed him on the talks held earlier in the day between President George Bush and visiting Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy.

"Dr. Majali told the American official that the Arab side has done everything possible to solve the issue of Palestinian representation along lines drawn in the U.S. letters of assurance and invitation, but that the Israelis persisted in their rejection of the two-track approach," one of the sources told the Jordan Times.

"Dr. Majali made it clear that the joint delegation has had enough with Israeli prostrations, and that we were fast approaching the point of asking for intervention from the co-sponsors to break the deadlock," the source added.

The sources refused to say that the session entailed a Jordanian formal request from the Amer-

icans to intervene, maintaining that the meeting at the State Department was pre-planned and took place only on the margin of discussions on the multilateral talks which are scheduled to take place in Moscow on Jan. 28-29.

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(Continued on page 5)

## King urges Arabs to adopt democracy

By Rana Sabbagh  
Reuters

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein, who describes Jordan as a beacon for democracy in a region dominated by one-party states, has urged Arab leaders to follow the path of political pluralism.

"We cannot swim in the opposite direction and move upstream in a world that is moving towards greater democracy and popular participation," said the 56-year-old King.

"Many forms of governments are things of the past ... dictatorships, one single party system, ideological armed forces ... we should take lessons from all these developments and really concentrate on the human being and serve his cause," he said.

The King, the Arab World's longest-serving ruler, said he wanted Jordan's moves towards democracy to set an example to other states in the Middle East.

"We are determined to keep going in that direction (democracy

and) and we believe that the role the Jordanians have is a tremendous one to provide a good example to the others," he said in an interview with Reuters and the international television news agency Visnews Monday.

"There is abuse, there is a situation where mistakes are occurring, but hopefully we will learn from it and with patience and perseverance we will get through to our objective of consolidating a manner of life where human rights are respected, where there is balance, where there is greater sense of responsibility, where there is powersharing, harmony, where there is progress and a good example to present itself to others in this entire region. We are totally committed to this course and we will continue to do our best to see that this period is a period of consolidation, of adjustment and that the future is in that direction. I can't predict what and when we will have changes but I believe very soon hopefully the National Charter will translate itself into

facts in our lives ..."

The King urged Arab leaders in the region to overcome their differences and unite to build for a future based on cooperation and democratic reform.

"It could be a golden age for this entire area if we complement each other and try to build for an effective future instead of live in suspicion and fear and continue to have complex over border problems that have to be resolved.

"If we lose this chance, years from now, when the area is not as important as it is for the rest of the world, what do we do?" he asked.

Reports on the future to resolve the impasse over the status of the Palestinian negotiators, as the Israelis rejected a Palestinian-Jordanian compromise proposal, noted a darker mood and a sharpening of attacks by the Palestinians and Israelis. All reports highlighted Israeli spokesperson Benjamin Netanyahu's remark that Monday had "not been a good day for peace," and Palestinian spokesperson Hanan Ashrawi's comment that Israel is still reluctant to allow a greater U.N. role in the peace process.

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USA Today suggested that there was more optimism on the Jordanian side, and quoted head negotiator Abdul Salam Majali as saying, "there is progress in that we changed written suggestions going from one side to the other to sitting together and getting a resolution."

The reports also discussed the possibility that the Palestinians would ask the U.S. to intervene should the deadlock persist, and Israeli criticism of this suggestion. According to Non-Boustany of the Washington Post, Palestinian negotiators "have repeatedly met with State Department officials seeking a more active American role in ending the stalemate to accept a compromise on the structure of the sessions." The New York Times said Israeli negotiators reacted strongly to "Palestinian and Jordanian hints to reporters" that the Arabs might seek U.S. help in breaking the deadlock, and quoted Israeli negotiator Elyakim Rubenstein as saying, "negotiations should be done at the negotiating area, not through the media." Mr. Netanyahu charged that the Palestinians were "engineering talk-busters" aimed at obstructing the talks, and thus inviting U.S.

(Continued on page 5)

## Moscow government to cease to exist in 2 weeks

MOSCOW (AP) — Boris Yeltsin and Mikhail Gorbachev agreed Tuesday to dissolve the central Soviet government within two weeks, and both the Kremlin and state bank will be transferred to Russian jurisdiction, Soviet media reported.

The Russian and Soviet presidents met privately for two hours in the Kremlin, the red brick fortress along the Moscow River that has been the heart of power.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman, Pavel Voshchanov, said they agreed that the Soviet Union will stop functioning by Jan. 1 and be replaced by Mr. Yeltsin's new Commonwealth of independent states, the independent Interfax news agency reported.

The meeting came just one day after Mr. Yeltsin, the president of Russia, and Mr. Gorbachev, president of the collapsing Soviet central government, held talks with visiting Secretary of State James Baker. Mr. Baker continued to meet the heads of

## Iraq rejects U.N. blame for war

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq Tuesday rejected a United Nations charge holding it responsible for starting the eight-year war with Iran.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted an unidentified Foreign Ministry spokesman blaming Iran for starting the war by shelling Iraqi towns and villages on Sept. 4, 1980. The war is deemed to have started with an Iraqi invasion of Iran on Sept. 22.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar issued a statement last week blaming Iraq for the conflict.

This sparked a statement by Iranian Vice-President Hassan Habibi on Monday demanding the payment of war reparations.

The statement by the Iraqi spokesman appeared to be a direct response to Mr. Habibi.

INA quoted the spokesman as saying Iranian officials "know very well that they themselves started the aggression against Iraq as they bombed with heavy artillery Iraq's towns and villages on Sept. 4, 1980, carried on the war against Iraq, and then rejected just peace based on international legality and snubbed the U.N. Security Council's author-

ity."

The spokesman added that Iraq, "while resisting aggression, had accepted the first U.N. Security Council Resolution 479 (on the Iran-Iraq war), on Sept. 28, 1980," which had called for a ceasefire.

If the Iranian regime is ready for peace, Iraq is already ready," the spokesman added.

## Iraq returns body

Iraq has returned the body of former Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Tondgouyan who Iran said was killed by Iraqis after being taken prisoner early in the 1980-88 war between the two countries.

Officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross supervised Tuesday's handover and the body was flown by helicopter to the western Iranian city of

Shiraz.

Police barricaded a youth camp where the morgue was put in; using metallic beds as barriers. Helmeted riot police carrying batons and shields sealed off streets leading to the camp.

(Continued on page 5)

## 40 bodies recovered from Egyptian ferry wreck

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## Little chance of quick easing of Iraq sanctions, U.N. official indicates

*Baghdad has not complied with Gulf war ceasefire conditions so far, Ekeus asserts*

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — There is little chance of any easing of the international sanctions imposed against Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait unless and until Baghdad discloses what international inspectors believe to be remaining secrets of its nuclear weapons programme and details of its stocks of ballistic missiles, a senior U.N. official indicated Tuesday.

"We know that they (Iraq) are concealing a major component of their nuclear weapons programme," said Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. special commission entrusted with eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under Security Council Resolution 687 adopted in April this year.

The resolution, which laid down U.N. terms and conditions for formally ending the Gulf war over Kuwait, "linked Iraqi demonstration of good behaviour in the area of cooperating with the U.N. in destroying its weapons of mass destruction," Mr. Ekeus told a satellite press conference monitored in Amman.

"Iraq has so far not complied with that resolution," said the Swedish diplomat. "And the (Security) Council has decided that as long as Iraq is not complying the economic sanctions will remain in force," he said in answer to questions from journalists based in Cairo, Sanaa, New Delhi and Riyadh.

The essence of the U.N. official's confident comments underlined the the vulnerability and overwhelming pressure that Iraq finds itself exposed to in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

Asked whether a formula could be found to ease the deteriorating food and health situation of the Iraqi people as a result of the international embargo, Mr. Ekeus described as "generous" a U.N. Sanctions Committee decision to "allow" Iraq to sell \$1.0 billion in oil — "most of which be spent on buying food and medicine" — and blamed Iraq for not accepting the "offer."

International experts and U.N. officials say that Iraq would be fortunate if it receives a net \$800 million from the oil sales since the proceeds will be channelled through a U.N. committee, which will set aside 30 per cent for war reparations and as yet undisclosed amount to support U.N. ceasefire monitoring operations as well as to pay for the elimination of Iraq's weapons.

The estimated \$800 million will not be sufficient to feed Iraq's 18 million people for a period more than two months, experts say.

Baghdad, saying the limited one-time sale of oil will be a violation of its sovereignty, has refused to accept the U.N. decision and is demanding that the West unfreeze Iraq's estimated \$4 billion in bank accounts and assets frozen as part of the U.N. punitive measure imposed after the invasion of Kuwait.

According to Mr. Ekeus, who obviously took extreme care to limit his comments to strictly within the realm of the mandate given to the commission, the Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis have nothing to do with the "question of leadership in Iraq."

The resolutions "concentrate on the importance of eliminating weapons of mass destruction ...

(and are) enforced, inter alia, to compel Iraq to go along with the resolutions," he said. "Iraq is treated as an entity and member of the U.N."

The United States and Britain, the two de facto leaders of the Security Council, have repeatedly said that the sanctions against Iraq will remain in place as long as President Saddam Hussein remains in power.

Mr. Ekeus said the commission he heads wants to ensure that all weapons-producing and research capabilities of Iraq are eliminated and that Iraq will not be able to reacquire them at any point.

In a witting or unwitting tribute to the innovative nature of Iraq, Mr. Ekeus accused Baghdad of "systematic concealment" of its nuclear programme from international agencies and asserted that the record of the country had proved that if it regains a "good financial condition," then it would be very easy for it to "combine the resources and human knowledge" to reacquire its military capabilities.

Towards foiling such a course of events, he explained, the commission has adopted a two-track approach: One aimed at removing all "remnants" of Iraq's weapons and research facilities and the other involving monitoring measures which will govern all future research and chemical industries in the country.

The Iraqi authorities are cooperating well in the process of destroying the facilities and materials Baghdad has declared to the U.N. committee, he said. "We have no complaints in this regard."

But U.N. inspectors are seeking statistics on the number of Scud missiles Iraq used in the 1980-88 war with Iran to establish whether Iraq is concealing any more of the long-range missiles of the type it used to pound Israel and Saudi Arabia during the war over Kuwait this year.

The commission, which has paid 24 "major inspection visits and numerous other missions to Iraq" after the war, knows "roughly how many (Scuds) had been delivered (to Iraq) over the years from the Soviet Union" and how many it used during the recent war, Mr. Ekeus said.

"We don't have any figures on how many were used in the Iran-Iraq war. We are trying to figure that out so that we know exactly whether there are any missiles left. We have concern that some may still be left in Iraq and we are continuing our efforts."

Asked when he expected his mission to be completed, the Swedish diplomat blamed Iraq for placing "obstacles," and said:

"We cannot say that the teeth have been pulled from the Iraqi nuclear programme. Iraq has not disclosed the extent of (its nuclear) programme and we find that there is a tendency on the part of the Iraqi authorities to save what is possible."

"We'd like to report to the Security Council soon as possible that they (Iraq) have mapped out everything, (and) now we are on the track of destroying the material and production capabilities. But Iraq is not forthcoming. I've told them if they open up their secrets, their hiding places and rest of the missiles programme — this is a matter of a month, a couple of months."

The conditional optimism that was inherent here was missing in comments Mr. Ekeus made at various other points during the

### Churches

Church of the Association Tel. 623541.  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 62543.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771551.  
Assyrian International Church Tel. 693324.  
Protestant Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 82324, 654923.  
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be easterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

### Min/max temp.

Ammun ..... 4/12  
Aqaba ..... 7/20  
Dead Sea ..... 12/12  
Jordan Valley ..... 8/18

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 64 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

ZARQA:  
Dr. Hisham Hyasat ..... (—)  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

Water Authority ..... 680100

## Kurds starting to return home, UNHCR says

BAGHDAD (R) — Kurdish refugees displaced by recent fighting are starting to come down from the mountains of northern Iraq, a U.N. official said Tuesday.

In general terms, he said: "Iraq had advanced research and production facilities for chemical weapons for offensive purposes. About 46,000 pieces of filled ammunition — nerve gas and mustard gas — and 75,000 to 80,000 unfilled ammunition were found and 11,000 of latter category have already been destroyed."

"To destroy those filled ammunition is very dangerous, very complex with a very high-risk component for the personnel involved," he said. "It is also something we have to sort out in cooperation with Iraqi authorities. In this area the Iraqi government is quite forthcoming ... but it is a huge task."

Experts have estimated that the job of destroying Iraq's chemical weapons could not be completed before mid-1993, implying that the option was open to the Security Council to maintain the total elimination of Iraq's arsenal in line with the technical language of the related resolution.

U.N. teams have found "facilities for advanced research" for biological weapons — "we have identified the programme and identified those who worked in it" — but no indication of an active production programme.

"We hope there is no active production programme," Mr. Ekeus said.

According to Mr. Ekeus, the Iraqis had removed a "major" part of documents related to its nuclear weapons programme immediately before U.N. inspectors visited the offices of the Iraqi Nuclear Energy Commission in September. The inspection, coupled with a U.N. demand for documents found in the building, led to a three-day stand-off at a Baghdad parking lot, he recalled.

He said in addition to the documents that the Iraqis allegedly removed from the building, the U.N. team was also deprived of a part of documents that they actually saw in the building.

Judging from the documents that were available to the team, Mr. Ekeus said, experts established the existence of a nuclear programme of a much larger magnitude than expected and now the committee is demanding that Iraq hand over the entire set of documents, including those allegedly removed as well as those "held back" from the team.

"They have been trying in various ways to enrich uranium to weapon-grade and quality for a bomb," he said. "Iraq had a large programme to acquire the technology and engineering skill in order to put together a trigger package for the bomb and had also started research work on delivery systems."

"What the U.N. has managed to do so far is stop that development and identify the major part of that programme," he said. "We believe that we have done that. We are now in the process of removing nuclear material from Iraq and the production material will be destroyed."

Mr. Ekeus said the plan the committee has drawn up for Iraq include close monitoring of every aspect of chemical research conducted in Iraq — including facilities producing immunisation vaccines for babies.

SCIRI said Ayatollah Khomeini's doctor was unable to diagnose the illness so asked for a foreign medical team to examine the scholar. Iraqi authorities refused and sent more security men to surround Ayatollah Khomeini's house, it asserted.

SCIRI said Ayatollah Khomeini, who is over 90, was vomiting and suffered from intestinal pain.

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Center ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 651111  
Civil Defence Immediate

Police ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199

Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade ..... 691228

Blood Bank ..... 775121

Highway Police ..... 843402

Traffic Police ..... 896390

Police Emergency Department ..... 630321

Firemen ..... 65112

Police Complaints ..... 629800

Price Complaints ..... 661176

Water and Sewerage

Complaints ..... 897467

Ammun Municipality

Complaints ..... 787111

Telephone Information

(Telecommunications) ..... 121

Overseas Calls ..... 010230

Central Amman Telephones

Repairs ..... 623101

Abdul Telephone Repairs ..... 661101

Jordan Television ..... 73111

Radio Jordan ..... 774111

Amal Hospital ..... 60224030

Amal Hospital ..... 674155

ZARQA:

Dr. Hisham Hyasat ..... (—)

Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

Water Authority ..... 680100

ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... 09593373

July 1991

## King to honour winning athletes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Distinguished Jordanian athletes and sportsmen will be honoured by His Majesty King Hussein at a special ceremony to be held at Al Hussein Youth City today.

Those to be honoured are Jordanian athletes who excelled in their performance at Arab, Asian and international games and championships performing individually or within groups according to the Ministry of Youth.

Among those to be honoured at the ceremony will be athletes who won the gold, silver and bronze medals in the international and Arab championships held in the 1990-91 sports season. The ministry said that the team of athletes which won one of three championships in these games also will be honoured.



**ROYAL VISIT** — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday visited the General Command of the Jordanian Armed Forces where he was received by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, the chief of staff of the Land forces, the chief of staff of the Royal Air Force, several of the chairmen of the joint chiefs

## Films to portray plight of Palestinians

By Sama Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Far from Home" and "Testimonies of Palestinian Children During Times of War" are the two films that open the week-long Palestinian film festival this evening at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.

The festival focuses on films made by Qais Al Zubeidi, an Iraqi who will discuss the two films with the audience later in the evening.

"This is the first time my films will be screened within a complete programme," Mr. Zubeidi told journalists Tuesday.

His latest documentary film, "A Voice in Deaf Times", portraying Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer who defends Palestinian rights, was broadcast on Jordan Television last week — the only TV station that accepted to air the pro-Palestinian cause.

"The film could have made it if it were for the GRIP war," Mr. Zubeidi said, adding that while he was filming the documentary, the war broke out, and "the Palestinian issue and intifada dropped from the top of the ladder to the bottom."

"The Palestinian issue became a taboo" to Western television stations, Mr. Zubeidi said. The companies that had shown interest in buying the film while it was being produced refused to take it when it finished, he said.

Jordan Television screened the film on the fourth anniversary of the Palestinian intifada, also Ms. Langer's birthday. Mr. Zubeidi noted that last year on the same day, Dec. 9, the Jewish lawyer had also received the "alternative noble prize."

She said she considered that broadcasting this film as the most important prize because "these people I love and defend saw that I didn't escape from the front," Mr. Zubeidi, quoting Ms. Langer, said.

The telephone calls I received from the West Bank area: they had seen the film

## Philanthropics call for cooperation in fighting world hunger

AMMAN (J.T.) — Officials of philanthropic organisations have called for closer cooperation between them and governments in an effort to fight increasing hunger and poverty in the world.

Jordan took part in the Second World Congress on Philanthropy held in Miami, Florida, between Dec. 10 and Dec. 15.

Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib, executive president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), who represented Jordan at the meetings, said he presented the Jordanian experiment in charity and voluntary work to the conference noting GUVS' important contribution towards upgrading social services to Jordanian citizens.

Mr. Zubeidi, who is currently residing in Berlin, started his career as a filmmaker in 1969 with his 13-minute documentary "Far From Home" about the daily lives of Palestinians from a refugee camp outside Damascus. Since then, the director has made 15 other films and received awards from Leipzig International Documentary Film Festival in Germany.

Most of his films are documentaries focusing on the Palestinian people and the cause of Palestine. For several years, Mr. Zubeidi headed the Cinema Section at the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Cultural Department.

Shoman Foundation screens six of Mr. Zubeidi's films. On Thursday, three films will be shown: "Confrontation" (1983, 30 minutes), "Chronicle of a massacre" (1984, 30 minutes) and "Homeland of Barbed Wired" (1980, 60 minutes). "Chronicle" is in the English language and "Homeland" is in both Arabic and English.

Mr. Zubeidi's 110-minute documentary, "Palestine — A People's File" (1985) will be screened on Friday.

The Shoman Foundation on Saturday will also show two films made in the Israeli occupied territories: "Palestinian Diary," which was produced by the only Arab production company in the occupied territories, Al Quds for Television production; and "Dar Wa Dour," produced and directed by Rashid Mashbarawi, a Palestinian from pre-1967 Palestine.

Entrance fees for each night is JD 1 per person and proceeds go to supporting the intifada. Shows start at 7 p.m.

## Minister promises to help Madaba's needy

MADABA (Petra) — Social Development Minister Amin Awad Mashqeb, Tuesday said that his ministry is keen to develop and improve the social services it provides for citizens, but will do that within its capabilities.

In a tour of Madaba District and Al Musaqer and Thibban sub-districts, Dr. Mashqeb said the ministry will try to activate its social and voluntary role to benefit the local community and provide the best social services to citizens.

The budget of the National Aid Fund (NAF) as included in the 1992 general budget stands at JD 8 million, Dr. Mashqeb said. He added that this amount will be distributed to governorates and districts according to the population and the percentage of needy families in each area.

He pointed out that the ministry will work on supporting vocational and income-generating projects because they help to improve the incomes of needy families.

He said the ministry will soon start updating social legislations, including laws pertaining to the NAF, to make them fit the current social situation.

The ministry, he added, will increase the number of beneficiaries from the NAF's assistance in Madaba District, especially in the Banat Hamida area. He also expressed the ministry's readiness to initiate a dress-making project in the Thibban area and proposed that the local centre there serve as the nucleus for such a project.

The minister attended in Thibban sub-district a graduation ceremony of girls who completed the requirements of dress-making, knit-wear, typing and first aid courses and distributed diplomas to the graduates.

Madaba District Governor Musleh Al Tarawneh and Thibban sub-district Governor Samir Sharif delivered speeches at the graduation ceremonies and briefed the minister on the needs of their areas in terms of social services.

## HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN POTASH PRODUCTION EXPANSION PROJECT NO. 30-4857-39-7

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE SUPPLY OF TWO WORKBOATS

The Arab Potash Company Limited (A.P.C.) of Amman, Jordan invites the interested manufacturing companies to tender for the supply of two (2) workboats which will be operated along with harvesters in the carnallite pans at the Potash facilities near Safi, on the southern end of the Dead Sea, about 200 km north of the port of Aqaba.

Manufacturing companies interested in tendering for these two (2) WORKBOATS can purchase the tender documents from the company's head offices at the address shown below. The cost for this tender package shall be JD 50. — non-refundable.

**Messrs.,  
The Arab Potash Co., Ltd.  
P.O.Box 1470,  
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Tel No.: 666165/6 - Amman  
or 03-377121-23/Site.**

One (1) original and three (3) copies of each bid are required. Each copy to be submitted in two (2) separate envelopes for technical and commercial purposes.

Closing date for submitting this tender will be 12:00 noon, February 25, 1992.

**A.Y. Ensour  
Managing Director  
The Arab Potash Co., Ltd.,**

## Minister calls for clear agricultural policy to boost Jordan's development

IRBID (Petra) — Agricultural development in Jordan is in dire need of a clear strategy that can ensure continued implementation of programmes, said Minister of Agriculture Fayed Khasawneh.

The minister, who was addressing the opening session of the First Jordanian Veterinarians Conference, said that a standing policy in agriculture should not be affected by the change of ministers or other officials regardless of their different views. Such strategy, he said, should be a national policy related to food production, marketing and other

into account matters related to the protection of the environment from pollution and strive to ensure a better life for future generations, the minister said in his address to the conference, organised by the Jordanian Veterinarians Association (JVA) in cooperation with the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

The conference is being held under the slogan: "Veterinary Medicine Is One of the Main Tools for Ensuring Food Security" and is aimed at stepping up efforts for the protection and safeguard of human health through improving the livestock wealth, said Dr. Ibrahim Al Abbadi, from the conference's preparatory committee.

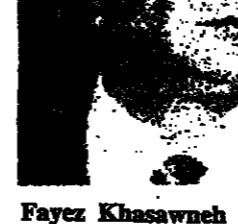
He told the opening session that the conference will discuss public health and the health of

domestic animals through 17 research papers submitted by JUST and vets working for the Ministry of Agriculture, the Amman Municipality and the private sector.

Association President Mohammad Tell called for the application of laws and regulations related to the veterinary profession.

Dr. Mahmud Abu Shihadeh, dean of the Veterinary Medicine Department at JUST, presented an outline about the creation of the department which offers a vital service to the community by producing specialists who can take care of the livestock wealth of Jordan.

Following the opening session, the minister opened an exhibition of veterinary medicines and equipment organised by seven local drug and pharmaceutical companies.



**Fayed Khasawneh**  
raising the standard of living of farmers and ensuring increased income from food production, he said.

This policy should also take

## UNICEF to launch its 1992 State of the World Children's Report

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Children's Fund launches its annual State of the World Children Report (SWCR) 1992 Thursday.

The global launch will take place in Brussels, where UNICEF Executive Director James Grant will release the SWCR in a major press conference.

Here in Jordan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker will launch the report Thursday at the same time it is launched globally. On the occasion, Deputy Prime

Minister and Education Minister Thouan Al Hindawi and Deputy Director of UNICEF's Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa Nigel Fisher, who is also UNICEF representative in Jordan, will release the report at a press conference to be held Thursday.

The report, issued by UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant, highlights the conditions of children worldwide and focuses attention on the plight of children in war-ravaged and

ridden countries.

1992 SWCR is issued at a time when the world is witnessing drastic changes following the end of the cold war and the emergence of a new world order, according to a UNICEF statement.

The report advocates a new order for children; an order that places children's concerns on national political agendas and seeks to meet their basic needs in the areas of health, education and nutrition and protection, the statement said.

## Bank to receive 3 million ECUs loan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Investment Bank (EIB) is providing the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) of Jordan, under the Third EEC — Jordan Financial Protocol, with a subsidised global loan for 3 million ECUs; as well as a credit line from risk capital resources for 1 million ECUs.

The proceeds are to finance the setting up of small businesses, particularly private ventures by Jordanian returning from employment in the Gulf area, according to an EC statement. Both the interest subsidy — 2% — and the credit line from risk capital resources — for a term of 20 years at a highly favourable rate — are being drawn from the General Budget of the European Communities, the statement said.

The creation of new enterprises through this facility is vital in helping the Jordanian economy to weather the repercussions of the Gulf conflict and to cope with the substantial return of expatriates (350,000 in 1991), a sharp fall in remittances from abroad and the loss of major export markets, the statement said.

The IDB, set up in 1965, is one of Jordan's leading financial institutions: geared to funding smaller businesses, it provides technical and administrative assistance in appraising and implementing capital projects.

In recent years, the IDB has attracted over 37 million ECUs in EIB global loans and risk capital assistance for numerous ventures promoted by smaller-scale local firms, especially in the industrial sector, the statement said.

This latest operation is the sixth to be arranged by the EIB under the Third EEC — Jordan Financial Protocol (1988-1991); a total of 51 million ECUs in loans and 2 million ECUs in risk capital assistance.

## Candidate hoping to become first female association president

By Odeh Odeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — If things go right for geologist Sara Zeidan, she will become the first woman president of the Jordanian Geologists Association (JGA).

If she succeeds, she will be first woman president of any Jordanian association or union in the Kingdom.

Ms. Zeidan, who heads a splinter group that broke away from the "Greens Bloc" within the JGA, has high hopes for winning the upcoming election early next month.

The Green Bloc, led by Issa Abu Taha, groups six other association members. They are now touring various organisations employing association members to campaign for Mr. Abu Taha, who is also a candidate for the presidency.

Another rival for Ms. Zeidan is the so-called "White Bloc," led by Attafah Bin Hassoun, who leads a four-member group of geologists.

Ms. Zeidan, along with all candidates, are busily canvassing support from 160 geologists employed by the Natural Resources Authority (NRA), 85 employed at Jordanian universities and up to 150 unemployed geologists as well as those employed by the

Water Authority and the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company.

Each one of the candidates is running with an ambitious platform, but the common denominator among them is their claim that they will be seeking jobs for the 150 unemployed geologists in Jordan.

The candidates' programmes also include the question of privileges and allowances to be given to geologists and a 50 percent field allowance. The candidates say they are seeking the creation of a special Social Security Fund and health scheme among other benefits for their association members.

## Japan to support JEA programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Japan will extend assistance to the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) for the purpose of organising a training course at the Electric Training Centre of the JEA supported by the technical cooperation scheme of the Third-Country Training Programme of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Participants from 16 Arab countries (Sudan, Yemen, Mauritania, Somalia, Oman, Djibouti, Syria, U.A.E., Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon) will be invited to the Electric Power Training Course to be held at the Electric Training Centre of the JEA from 1992 to 1996, according to the statement.

**Announcement From The WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN  
Invitation For Bids (IFB)  
No. 51/91/SP, 52/91/W**

- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from Kreditanstalt Fuer Wiederaufbau (KfW) in Deutschmarks towards the water sector programme and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract(s) for which this IFB has been issued.
- The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following:-

No. of Tender	Supply of	Non-refundable Fee in JD	Performance Security in JD
1) 51/91/SP	Submersible Pumps & Spare Parts	50.-	5,500-
2) 52/91/W	Welding Machines	50.-	3,000.-
3)	Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect the bidding documents at, the office of the Secretary General, Tenders Division, Water Authority, P.O.Box 2412, Amman, Jordan, tel. 06-680100, Tlx. 22439 WAJ JO, FAX 679143.		
4)	A complete set of the tender documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as mentioned in Item 2 above.		
5)	All bids must be accompanied by a security as mentioned in Item 2 above and must be delivered to the office not later than 1200 hours, Jordan local time, on Tuesday 18/2/1992.		

**Eng. Mutazz Belbeisi  
Secretary General  
Water Authority**

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

Established 1975

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Editor-in-Chief:

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Editorial and advertising offices:

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## Timely move

**THE RESOLUTION** passed last week by the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) calling on the Arab countries to lift their embargo on Iraq and to free frozen Iraqi assets is a timely and correct move. Iraq and the Iraqi people paid very dearly for their invasion of Kuwait last year and it is high time that the sufferings of the Iraqi people ended. In substance the U.N. Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on Iraq were adopted to reverse the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. This has been achieved a long time ago and, therefore, the *raison d'être* behind such punitive measures have ceased to exist ever since. Moreover, Iraq has complied with all the measures imposed by the Security Council to disarm itself of mass destruction weapons even though it is not the only country in the region to mass such weapons. Israel has already about 300 nuclear heads and Iran is well into its own nuclear programme. The bottom line, however, is that the suffering of the innocent people of Iraq who are being forced to pay the price of Arab and international sanctions for no fault of their own. The Iraqis, deprived of effective democratic institutions, are not responsible for the grave mistakes that led to Kuwait's invasion. To hold them responsible for such heavy policy decisions taken by their central government is something that is clearly untenable. The CEAU's Dec. 5 decision, therefore, came at the appropriate time in order to serve propitious notice on the international community that the Arab World does not share the erroneous conviction of some of the international community that holds the children and men and women of Iraq responsible for the Gulf war and accountable for all the damages that ensued from it. The international community cannot be expected to take the initiative in ending the economic and financial sanctions against Iraq as long as the Arab World stays silent. Now that a major Arab League institution has taken just such an initiative, the miseries and agonies of the Iraqi people would have at last an opportunity to end. It behoves the Arab countries to heed the verdict of the council immediately. Hopefully such a wise Arab course would eventually lead to an international response and an end to the punishment of the Iraqi people.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

**AL RAI** Arabic daily Tuesday commented on the vote of confidence in the new government of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, secured in Parliament Monday, and said that the way is open now for close cooperation between Parliament and the government so that the government's programmes can be implemented. It was under Sharif Zeid's government that the 1989 parliamentary elections were held free and fair, bringing to Parliament a group of deputies whose main aim is to offer services to their nation through legislation based on the people's needs, the paper said. It is only reasonable for the Jordanian citizens to assume that the deputies will now direct most of their attention and their efforts towards helping the government solve chronic problems like unemployment and poverty and find means of dealing with the financial and economic ills of the country, the paper noted. It said that no one believed that the government can perform wonders and miracles, but it is reasonable to think that a Parliament which confides in the government should offer all the help it can to enable the executive authority deal with problems and attain further development and progress for the country.

A columnist in *Sawt Al Sheab* tackled the question of strikes by dissatisfied workers in Jordanian factories and other organisations, and said that strikes or threats to carry them out have become possible under the umbrella of democracy the country is now enjoying. In the past, strikes were taboo and meant that those instigating others to stage such actions were to face trouble not only with the employer but also with the government, said Ahmad Dibbaa. Strikes have been a tool in the hands of workers in more advanced nations for many years and Jordanians had been wishing to have the right to strike when circumstances called for such action, but had been barred to do so in the absence of democracy, the writer said. He said that the workers of the Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPCO) are now threatening to stage a strike for better pay and working conditions, by Jan. 11, 1992, and it is hoped that no such action would be taken. The same workers had reached a compromise with the management in August of 1990, thus averting a strike action that could have caused so much damage to the economy, the writer said. He expressed hope that the management will respond to the demands of 642 workers who are in dire need since their monthly salary does not exceed JD 71. Through dialogue and reasoning, said the writer, the two sides can avert any action that could cause severe damage to the national economy.

## Economic Forum

# The political lining in Jordan's economic quagmire

Analysts and observers who are interested in predicting and assessing the path of the Jordanian economy in the coming months and years are advised to read what they are looking for mainly in the political developments and shifts that are sweeping the Middle East area. To try to arrive at this goal through the classical approach of combining economic data and interpreting standard economic indicators will not be very useful. In particular, our impression is that these political developments will have an economic content that will bypass the IMF-sponsored economic adjustment programme and render it redundant.

Now, this programme is made up of two distinct segments. One segment belongs to Jordan and refers to the tackling of our external debt problem through rescheduling, which is a mechanism to postpone the problem rather than to solve it. The second segment belongs to the International Monetary Fund itself and refers to implanting in the soil of the Jordanian economy the seeds of the market economy and free international trade. This, in itself, is not harmful, however, provided the timing is right and social considerations are not grossly victimised.

The core problem of the programme is the phasing out of the budget deficit which the programme emphasises in a very

extraordinary way. Other measures recommended by the IMF have already been implemented, such as currency devaluation, floating interest rates, restricting domestic credit and domestic public borrowing and refraining from imposing any external trade barriers. Thus, the headache starts from the budget deficit. To compress this deficit, taxes have to be increased, probably beyond the limits of taxable capacity, and subsidies on some basic consumption commodities have to be removed. Both measures are unpopular, are drawing fierce fire and therefore are creating serious tension inside the Jordanian society.

Our impressions is that the political developments will boost the foreign support to the Jordanian budget to the extent that will relieve the treasury from the task of raising taxes and wiping consumption subsidies.

And it is our firm belief that, from now on, the Jordanian economy will fare very satisfactorily and that its progress will proceed almost undisputedly. Our economy sank to the bottom at some point following the eruption of the Gulf crisis on August 2, 1990. And at a certain point thereafter, it bottomed out so that now it has nowhere to go but upwards. The start of the peace

process in the area gave a vital and irrevocable push to our economy. And, irrespective of the results of the peace talks, the concomitant momentum and the commitment of the world, especially the Europeans, Americans and Japanese, to the economic well-being of Jordan is irreversible even if the peace negotiations are to be stalled. Above all, the turbulent conditions of the Middle East area during the last one or two years have given way to stability that will seemingly last for a long time. Stability is the most basic prerequisite of economic progress and the Jordanian economy stands ready and qualified to benefit from such stability, drawing particularly on its assets of economic freedom, free enterprise and burgeoning democracy.

The Jordanian economy is essentially a private sector economy, or that is what it should be. Under the pressure of the IMF economic adjustment programme, the current economic policy is tightening the screws on the private sector and is actively antagonising various parts of it. In particular, high taxes, and sometimes misguided ones, are both jeopardising production incentives and the saving potential. Now, the managers of our economic policy are well advised to redraw their attitudes towards the private sector in light of the new political realities.

## Nuclear danger in Soviet Union is real, experts say

By Nicholas Doughty  
Reuter

BRUSSELS — As the Soviet Union collapses, one burning issue worries the West: How safe is the world's biggest nuclear arsenal and would it be possible for a renegade republic or extremists to use one of the doomsday weapons?

The answer, military experts say, is yes.

The Soviet strategic arsenal of long-range missiles — based chiefly in deep silos, on submarines or bombers — is thought to be well protected by elaborate codes and checking systems. It would be almost impossible to launch one independently.

The problem is with thousands of more accessible battlefield nuclear weapons, such as artillery shells and short-range missiles intended for tactical use against enemy troop concentrations. Each one could destroy a large town.

"If they really wanted to, there is no doubt at all that the Ukraine or some other republic could use tactical nuclear weapons," said Henry Dodds, an expert on the Soviet Armed Forces with the authoritative Jane's defence weekly.

But the West has limited knowledge of Soviet safety systems and cannot be sure who will have political control in future.

"What worries all of us is that it may no longer just be enough to get on the 'hotline' to Moscow and say 'we have a nuclear problem,' Mr. Dodds told Reuters. "We may now need a line to Kiev or the capitals of other republics as well."

Growing signs of discontent within the Soviet Armed Forces could mean problems with guarding tactical warheads properly.

That role had originally been filled by now-discredited KGB.

But the military had the artillery and missile launchers used to

get on the 'hotline' to Moscow

and say "we have a nuclear problem," Mr. Dodds told Reuters. "We may now need a line to Kiev or the capitals of other republics as well."

For example, the freeing of all U.S. hostages in Lebanon might have made Washington inclined to improve ties with Iran more quickly if a strong Soviet Union had been competing for a closer relationship with that key Islamic republic, analysts say.

But Washington has been happy to leave that morass of ethnic conflict and nationalism to the European Community to solve, albeit with little success so far.

Some critics have faulted President George Bush for not moving faster to recognise Ukrainian independence, while others have attacked his refusal to offer massive direct aid to the Soviet Union.

Mr. Bush's defenders say this caution is a function of his keen sense that this is a unique moment in history and that the U.S. role in many cases has taken on vastly heightened importance. So he is especially anxious not to make a mistake, they add.

Now Germany is united and communism has been rejected in Eastern Europe, what challenges will occupy American diplomats in the years ahead?

America is expected to remain engaged in the situations in Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East, in NATO, China and Japan, in what becomes of the Soviet Union and in issues like non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Where possible, as with Yugoslavia, it will encourage regional solutions to conflicts.

The United States has taken the lead in Middle East peace-making.

Analysts say that in responding to other world crises, the United States is likely to build on the Gulf war precedent of pursuing multilateral, rather than unilateral, action.

Totalling almost 30,000 warheads, the Soviet arsenal is the world's biggest.

The arms are spread throughout four republics, with the vast majority concentrated in the three powerful Slav republics — Russia, Ukraine and Byelorussia — which have said they are setting up a new commonwealth.

But Kazakhstan, a Central Asian republic not included in the new agreement, has around 10 per cent of the total, experts say.

The key issue is how the political chain of command will work.

Statements from the new Commonwealth and what remains of the union that control would be maintained seem reassuring.

"Since the Slav republics have

the vast majority of the nuclear weapons, it is good to see that the political authorities there are taking such a responsible attitude," said Colonel Andrew Duncan of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

But there are also confusing signals. It is still unclear whether Russian President Boris Yeltsin has a finger on the nuclear button with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has said that Ukraine

wanted to share control of the Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal with Russia and Byelorussia in a

"three-button" system.

He said this would improve security, but NATO officials said it also raised the worrying prospect of a struggle for control of nuclear weapons at the highest level if Mr. Gorbachev proved unwilling to renounce the ultimate presidential power.

In any case, sorting out who has political control of Soviet nuclear weapons still leaves questions about the "battlefield" weapons like nuclear artillery shells which do not require top-level access codes to fire.

Military analysts say that if they are not properly guarded, or if fuses are not removed and kept away from the warheads, they could be seized by extremists or taken over by republics.

"If the political authorities in a republic convince the local military commander that he works for them, that republic then has control over tactical weapons," said one NATO source.

If extremists seized a warhead without the means to fire it, they might have trouble making use of the weapon.

But they would still have the essential components and experts say there are thousands of Soviet scientists with little to do who might offer their services for money.

Those people could do this within the Soviet Union or in third countries that are developing nuclear weapons," said Richard Kokoski of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The nuclear knowledge is there and it is dangerous, providing you have the material, some money, a few scientists and technicians, making a nuclear weapon is not that hard."

## U.S. adjusts to role as sole superpower step by step

By Carol Giacomo  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The United States is adjusting to its new role as the world's only superpower, learning one day at a time how to balance the increased responsibilities and risks.

It has spent most of the 46 years since World War II playing a lead role on a world stage where the global map, major power relationships and expectations were familiar.

But as 1992 approaches the Soviet Union is disintegrating at an accelerating rate — even the pro-Gorbachev Bush administration now admits the union is all but dead — and the concept of an international strategic counterbalance to the United States has passed on to it.

"That felt good but ... there's a recognition that the new order is going to evolve and that just because we are the last remaining superpower does not necessarily mean it's going to evolve in a direction that we're comfortable with," he said.

"We're now passed the euphoric stage of, 'isn't it great, our ideology prevailed and ... communism is dead,'" one U.S. official said.

"That felt good but ... there's a recognition that the new order is going to evolve and that just because we are the last remaining superpower does not necessarily mean it's going to evolve in a direction that we're comfortable with," he said.

"It gets scarier as you realise (the post-cold war world) is not going to be pretty and there's a real strong sense you just don't want to do something that could be wrong."

Officials say the new U.S. pre-eminence is a blessing, a curse and a complicating factor in their calculations.

They anticipate it will give America new leverage with some governments while others may be more resentful, accusing Washington of trying to impose its will too often.

In an article in the diplomatic journal *Foreign Policy*, Mr. Schlesinger also warned of the "inevitable growth of animosity toward the United States as the

leading power in the world."

Already that is being felt. Some Croatians, for example, have been extremely critical of Washington for failing to recognise their independence and to play a more direct role to stop the civil war in Yugoslavia.

But Washington has been happy to leave that morass of ethnic conflict and nationalism to the European Community to solve, albeit with little success so far.

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The United States has taken the lead in Middle East peace-making.

Analysts say that in responding to other world crises, the United States is likely to build on the Gulf war precedent of pursuing multilateral, rather than unilateral, action.

## U.S. undercutting Palestinians

By Rowland Evans and Robert Nobak

The following article is reprinted from the Dec. 16, 1991, issue of the Washington Post.

AFTER one week of sulky Washington peace talks, the Bush administration's reluctance to pressure Israel is undercutting Palestinian negotiators and giving Israeli nationalists a free hand back in the West Bank.

The hands-off approach by Secretary of State James Baker in the first Israel-Palestine negotiations since Israel took the West Bank 24 years ago leaves Palestinians impotent against Israel. They are stateless appellants armed with nothing but a righteous demand for self-government they cannot fulfill by themselves.

Mr. Baker may well be biding his time for future intervention at a moment he thinks will maximise U.S. clout to squeeze Israel for necessary concessions. He is known to feel that his appearance here now would trigger a charge that the United States was getting ready to open a direct dialogue with the PLO.

On the West Bank, land seizures and tougher security measures by the Israeli occupation army and nationalist settlers have thrown Mr. Bush's appeal to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for "confidence-building" gestures back in his face. The president's demand for an end to new Jewish settlers on Arab lands has become a joke.

Since Madrid, hundreds of acres occupied by Arab families have been seized as "state-owned" land for new housing or for broad highways between existing settlements to guarantee the settlers' security against dispersed Palestinians. Even families in historically Arab East Jerusalem are being evicted from their homes by settlers with police support.

Palestinians claim the posture is the result of Mr. Baker's concern not to alienate pro-Israel lobby more than necessary in an election year. But he is known to feel he has Americans behind him in an even-handed posture in the Middle East, reflected in the strong U.S. demand last September in denying Israel \$10 billion in loan guarantees.

## Co-sponsors may have to step in

(Continued from page 1)

"track" in the negotiations was untenable and unacceptable. "The letters of assurances and invitations spoke about two tracks, Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli, and did not mention a "third track" role for the joint delegation, Dr. Majali and Abdul Shafii said," according to an Arab delegate.

"He asked the Israeli negotiators to accept the two tracks and negotiate with the two parties accordingly," he added.

The Israelis replied by giving the Arab side yet another proposal, which was described by Jordanian delegates as "not much different" from earlier ones.

It was likely to be rejected in favour of a new call on the Israelis to go into the official negotiating room and discuss how to split the "two-track" approach approved by the co-sponsors and the Arab parties.

The Palestinians handed the Israelis another, separate letter on Israeli settlements in the West Bank and South Lebanon.

Arab delegates were spinning hope yesterday on the meeting between President Bush and Foreign Minister Levy producing a new momentum for breaking the deadlock.

"We expect President Bush to have told Levy that Israel had to stop procrastination and move towards starting talks on substance," an Arab delegate said. "We hope that was the American message."

At the end of his meeting with President Bush, Minister Levy said that he relayed Israel's continued commitment to promoting the peace process. "It is right to stress with this unequivocal stand. The sides concerned must be the ones who resolve the problem. Therefore there is the principle of direct negotiations without preconditions," he said.

He said that President Bush "I am pleased to say agreed with this principle."

Although the joint delegation had reported some progress in their negotiations with the Israelis during the past week, talks took a turn to the worse Tuesday as the Israelis set a

deadline for Wednesday afternoon by which to leave Washington without softening their position on the Palestinian track.

"We have almost reached a deadlock in our talks with the Israelis," Marwan Muasher, spokesman for the Jordanian delegation, told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview from the State Department. "But we will not take this case to the Americans yet," he added.

Spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation Hanan Ashrawi said after the meeting broke up that the joint delegation received a response from the Israelis "but we have not been able to extract any positive points from it."

Dr. Abdul Shafii said that it was not yet time to ask for U.S. intervention in resolving the dispute but he warned that negotiations "are quickly moving towards a deadlock."

"We do not think this is the time for it to be the co-sponsors ... we cannot take this measure and leave it to the Americans." Dr. Abdul Shafii said in a joint press conference with Dr. Ashrawi at the Grand Hotel, where the Palestinian representatives are staying.

"We are the party concerned and we are going to keep pursuing peace ... but if it reaches a deadlock then the co-sponsors should intervene," he added.

Only six members of the Jordanian team met with Mr. Djerjian and his aides after the morning's session ended. Palestinian delegates were scheduled to meet Ambassador Djerjian later in the day before another meeting between the three Arab and Israeli parties met this afternoon (5:00 Washington time).

Dr. Muasher and other Jordanian delegates said their team discussed the agenda of the multilateral talks to be held next month in Moscow. The Americans suggested placing arms control and security, water, economic development and refugees. The Jordanian delegates asked that human rights be placed on the agenda as well.

The Moscow talks will commence at the foreign minister's level on Jan. 28 and then will break up into com-

mittees to tackle the various issues and these committees could meet anywhere and discussed mutually agreed upon agenda.

Israeli and American officials also met Monday to discuss a possible change in venue from Moscow to a West European city for regional talks. Considering shifting the talks to Brussels or Lisbon after the foreign minister's meeting.

State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said, however, there has been no change in the venue for the multilateral talks.

On progress of the peace talks, he said there have been meetings with

the various delegations but he said the administration has not put forward proposals to resolve disputes.

"We have not put forward a proposal (to the Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli negotiations), we have worked with the various parties, we have discussed with them various ideas and suggestions that are in play," Mr. Boucher said.

"We have not put forward any proposal of our own. We've encouraged them to resolve these issues and to move from process to substance," he added.

George Hawamreh, Nermene Murad and Ghadeer Taber.

## Iraq rejects U.N. blame

(Continued from page 1)

Bakhtaran, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

Tehran Radio said Mr. Tondgouyan was killed by Iraqi forces but gave no other details about his death.

Until earlier this year Iran had made repeated calls for the re-

lease of the only Iranian minister taken prisoner during the eight-year war.

Mr. Tondgouyan and several oil ministry officials were captured on Oct. 31, 1980 by Iraqi soldiers while inspecting oil installations in the southwestern Khuzestan province which Iraq had invaded a month earlier.

## Syria, Israel trade charges

(Continued from page 1)

"It was clear that they wanted only to mark time, they wanted only to make believe that they are meeting with us without permitting the process to lead anywhere," he said.

The stand-off could set the stage for renewed U.S. involve-

ment. The United States has declined to intervene in the Washington talks, preferring to allow the parties to muddle on alone.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, who met President George Bush Tuesday, said Israel would like Washington to stay on the sidelines.

## U.N. vote upstages talks in media

(Continued from page 1)

intervention and a "U.S.-imposed settlement."

Reports in The Washington Post and USA Today said U.S. and Israeli officials Monday met to discuss a possible change in venue from Moscow to a European site for next month's planned multilateral meet-

ing. According to the reports, the officials are now considering moving the talks to Brussels or Lisbon.

The Washington Post also ran a feature by Nora Boustany on the Palestinian negotiating team, and how they represent the evolution of the Palestinian national movement. (Story to be reprinted in full in the Jordan Times).

## Crisis pushed to backburner

(Continued from page 1)

Party, (JPDP), argued that opposition to the peace talks could actually boost the Jordanian negotiating position and the country's sovereignty.

That was only possible, he maintained, if the role of Parliament is protected and respected.

Deputy Mansour Murad, who spoke on behalf of deputies Kawar and Shabib, charged that political freedoms have witnessed serious setbacks over the last two years and that consecutive governments did not fulfil their promises.

The demand for the permanent repeal of the martial law has been pressed by many deputies expressed resentment of what they viewed as official procrastination of efforts to remove security restrictions and pass new liberal laws.

A government source told the Jordan Times that the cabinet understands the urgency of the issue and will cooperate with Parliament in putting the new laws into effect as soon as possible.

Deputies made it clear that they will not accept the government promises and that they want practical steps to be taken.

The parliamentarians steered away from sharp rhetoric in an attempt to give the government and Parliament a chance to develop a new working relationship. The parliamentarians, some analysts argue, were also retrained because they do not want to be viewed as challenging the regime, especially after King Hussein himself presented the cabinet's programme.

Some deputies argued that in the government's programmes should be presented by the prime minister so as to confine the differences between Parliament and government.

Drawing on the peace process as an example, Mr. Hadadin who belongs to the Jordan Democratic People's

Party, (JPDP), argued that opposition to the peace talks could actually boost the Jordanian negotiating position and the country's sovereignty.

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## Repeal of 3379 will not affect talks

(Continued from page 1)

certain pressure groups in the U.S. and Europe and the fact that 1992 is an election year in the U.S.

"If (the repeal of the resolution) is a reality now and I don't think it will have any effect on the talks in Washington," Dr. Talib said. "But I hope that the Arab delegations in Washington would not allow this to affect the momentum of the peace process that is already in progress."

"The fact that a majority has voted to repeal the resolution proves that this is a changing world," said a senior Jordanian official who preferred not to be identified. "It also reflects the weakening Arab position and shows the state of Arab affairs," he added.

The General Assembly had voted 72-35 with 32 abstentions in 1975 at the urging of Arab countries to pass the resolution that equated Zionism "as a form of racism and racial discrimination."

The decision to revoke that resolution won an overwhelming majority in Monday's General Assembly session after the U.S., Israel and many Western countries described the resolution as a "stain" on the United Nations. One hundred and eleven countries voted in favour of revoking the resolution, 25 voted against and 13 abstained.

"Repealing the resolution does not change the fact that Zionism is racism because it obviates the existence of other people, especially the Palestinians," Mr. Bataineh said. "It (Zionism) is an exclusive ideology that renders others in Palestine to the status of second class citizens."

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## Jagge takes 1st World Cup skiing victory

MADONNA DI CAMPIGLIO, Italy (AP) — Norway's Finn Christian Jagge won his first World Cup victory in Tuesday's slalom here, edging home idol Alberto Tomba by 0.09 seconds in this Italian Dolomite resort.

The 25-year-old Norwegian silenced a partisan crowd of 20,000 as he put together a winning aggregate of one minute, 28.41 seconds, slaying two faultless runs down the steep Marilleva Track.

Tomba missed his fifth victory of this season, ending in 1:28.50 minutes.

Young Swede Tomas Fogdö edged another Norwegian, Ole Christian Pettersen, for third place.

Fogdö trailed the winner by 0.56 seconds while Furuseth, a winner in Campiglio last year, had a gap of 0.92 seconds from the teamsters.

Tuesday's runner-up place kept Tomba atop the overall cup standings with 640 points.

Swiss Paul Accola placed fifth, 1.76 seconds behind Jagge, and held second place overall, with 581 points.

## Liverpool drawn against Genoa in UEFA Cup

LONDON (R) — Liverpool were drawn against Genoa in the quarterfinals of the UEFA Cup Tuesday, their first competitive game against an Italian side since the Heysel Stadium riot.

The English club are playing in European competition for the first season since receiving a six-year ban after their fans rioted in the 1985 European Cup final against Tuna club Juventus in Brussels, resulting in the deaths of 39 people.

The draw kept them apart from two other former European champions, with Real Madrid playing Sigma Olomouc of Czechoslovakia and Ajax Amsterdam paired against Ghent of Belgium.

The other quarterfinal pitted Italy's Torino against Denmark's BK 1903 Copenhagen.

Liverpool, four times European champions, were pleased with the draw against a side making their debut season in Europe.

"While we are quite confident, especially after our good performances in the previous rounds, it is still going to be very difficult for us in view of the foreign player restriction," said

club secretary Peter Robinson. "To our advantage is that (manager) Graeme Souness has great experience of Italian club football." Souness played for Genoa's neighbours Sampdoria, who share the same stadium.

Sampdoria's home tie against Anderlecht in the European Cup on March 18 forced UEFA to switch their draw and order Genoa to play the first leg at home rather than Liverpool.

"I do not think that having to play the second leg away now is of great advantage," said Robinson.

UEFA also swapped the legs between Ajax and Ghent, with the Belgians having to play the first leg at home because of a clash with club Brugge's European Cup Winner's Cup tie against Atletico Madrid.

Real Madrid manager Manuel Fernández Trigo said after the draw they would have liked to have met Liverpool.

"I had hoped that we would have picked Liverpool. It would have been a fantastic draw, but Olomouc are technically a strong side and we can not underestimate them."

## Italy, Denmark on standby for European championship

GENEVA (R) — Italy and Denmark were put on standby by UEFA Tuesday to play in next year's European Soccer Championship finals if the Soviet Union or Yugoslavia are prevented from fielding teams.

The European Football Union, fearing the break-up of the Soviet Union and civil war in Yugoslavia could force the two countries to abandon their places in the finals in Sweden, decided to name substitute teams.

In a brief statement after a

meeting of their European Football Championship Committee, UEFA said Italy, group runners-up to the Soviet Union, and Denmark, runners-up to Yugoslavia, would qualify.

The proposal would need to be ratified at UEFA's full meeting in Gothenburg on Jan. 16, the eve of the draw for the June finals.

At the weekend the new Ukraine Football Federation promised its players could still represent the Soviet Union at the finals.

**GOREN BRIDGE**

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH  
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### GOING TO GREAT LENGTHS

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH: ♠ A 9 6 ♦ Q J 3 ♣ K 10 6 5 ♤ A 4 2

WEST: ♠ 8 5 3 ♦ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♤ A K 10 9 8 4 7 7 6 5

8 ♦ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♤ Q J 9 7 4 2

SOUTH: ♠ K Q J 10 9 7 4 2 ♦ A 3 ♣ A 2 ♤ K J 5

The bidding: South West North East

1 ♠ 3 ♦ 3 NT 4 ♣

4 ♦ Pass 3 ♣ Pass

6 ♦ Pass 2 ♣ Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

For most players, the 50 percent chance offered by a finesse is good enough. Expert technicians are seldom satisfied with a line that rates to lose half the time.

West's jump to three hearts crowded the auction and North-South did well to get to the slam. When South did not leave partner the option of doubling four hearts, North felt the single fit and prime cards in the other three suits merited one move toward slam, and South needed no more encouragement.

West led the king of hearts and shifted to the eight of diamonds. An easily satisfied declarer will draw trumps and then try the club fit

— down one. Slightly better technique is first to see if either defender started with specifically Q J x diamonds. Declarer wins the diamond shift in hand, draws trumps and then cashes the king of diamonds and ruffs a diamond. As the cards lie that, too, is doomed to failure.

Actually, if declarer wins the diamond shift in hand and leads a trump, he can almost claim the slam. When East fails to follow to the first trump, nine of West's cards are known—three clubs and probably six hearts. If West has four diamonds as well, the club finesse is sure to work. If West is short in diamonds, it does not matter who holds the queen of clubs.

Correct is to draw trumps to prevent West from ruffing a diamond, then cash the king of diamonds and ruff a diamond. When West shows out, simply run all your trumps, discarding the queen of hearts when West holds onto the ace and coming down to the ten of diamonds and ace and another club in dummy, and KJ 5 of clubs in hand. You know West has the ace of hearts and East has the queen of diamonds, so neither defender can hold three clubs. Cash the ace and king to drop the queen.

West has followed to all three rounds of diamonds, cash the king of clubs and lead the four. If the queen has not appeared, finesse the jack to center to the unlikely possibility that West started with specifically a 3-5-4-1 shape.

## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

### Edberg, Seles voted world champions

LONDON (AP) — The International Tennis Federation (ITF) Tuesday named U.S. Open titlist Stefan Edberg as its men's world champion. Yugoslav Monica Seles, who won the Australian, French and U.S. Open titles but pulled out of Wimbledon, was voted women's world champion by a three-man ITF panel, Fred Perry, Tony Trabert and Frank Sedgeman. Although he won only one of the four Grand Slam titles, Edberg won five other tournaments, more than any other player. Seles cited injury as her reason for missing Wimbledon and also pulled out of Yugoslavia's Federation Cup team. But she reached the final of all 16 events she played this year, winning ten of them.

### Ioka wins WBA title

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Hiroki Ioka wrested the World Boxing Association (WBA) junior-flyweight title from South Korean veteran Yuh Myung-Woo on a split decision Tuesday. Judge Oscar Perez scored the contest in Yuh's favour at 115-113, but the decision was swayed by Harold Lederman, who made it 115-113, and Phil Newman, who scored it 117-112 for Ioka. Ioka, 22, the former World Boxing Council (WBC) strawweight champion, used his superior reach to score repeatedly with left jabs in the early rounds. Yuh, fighting for the first time abroad in the 18th defence of the title he wrested from American Joey Olivo in 1985, launched an offensive from the eighth round and unleashed some powerful right crosses to Ioka's face. But the 27-year-old South Korean was unable to make up the points deficit and slumped to the first defeat of his professional career. Ioka improved his record to 19-2-1, including nine knockouts while Yuh's record dropped to 36-1 with 14 knockouts.

### Kasparov tops chess ratings

MANILA (R) — World champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union retained the number one position in the chess ratings with 2,780 points but Soviet dominance of the top 10 has been broken. International Chess Federation chief Florencio Campomanes said in Manila Tuesday. The top 10 now include England's Nigel Short, India's Viswanathan Anand, the Estonian Alexei Shirov and Gata Kamsky of the United States. Campomanes said in a press statement. Judit Polgar of Hungary, with a 2,550 rating, kept her number one position among women players.

### Leconte replaces Forget on French team

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Henri Leconte was named Tuesday to replace Davis Cup teammate Guy Forget on the French team competing in the Hopman Cup Team Tennis Tournament, which begins on Dec. 27. Leconte and Forget both were members of the French team that scored an upset victory over the United States in the Davis Cup final in Lyon earlier this month. Leconte will partner Julie Halard on the French team in the 12-nation exhibition event, which features men's and women's singles and mixed doubles contests. Forget told organisers he had to withdraw because of tendinitis in his right knee. The injury is not expected to prevent him from playing in next month's Australian Open in Melbourne. France is to play the British team of Jeremy Bates and Sarah Loosemore in the first round of the Hopman Cup.

Germany, which will be represented by Boris Becker and Steffi Graf, is the top seed for the Hopman Cup. Other top pairings include the brother-and-sister Spanish pair of Emilio and Arantxa Sanchez and the American combination of Grand Slam Cup winner David Wheaton and Mary Joe Fernandez. The tournament will be played at the Perth Superdrome from Dec. 27 to Jan. 3.

### Joyner-Kersee aiming for record

SYDNEY (AP) — Reigning Olympic champion Jackie Joyner-Kersee says she will be aiming to break her own heptathlon world record at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. The American athlete said she was aiming for 7,300 points in the event. Her current world record is 7,291. "Seven thousand, three hundred. That's the target," she said Tuesday during a visit to Sydney as part of a promotional tour. Her husband and coach, Bob Kersee, believes the world record is within her reach. "I think she can go 7,300 if she is healthy and everything goes well," Kersee said. Joyner-Kersee finished second behind Australia's Glynis Nunn in the inaugural Olympic heptathlon in Los Angeles in 1984. She won in Seoul in 1988. Success in Spain would give her the dual distinction of becoming the first female to win heptathlon medals at three successive Olympics and the first woman to win consecutive gold medals in the event. "What we are looking to do is to try and recapture the Olympic title and bring home back-to-back gold medals," said Bob Kersee. "No male or female athlete that I know has three Olympic multi-event medals, so I think that would be historic. And I think at that point you would have to consider her to be one of the best multi-event athletes ever," he said.

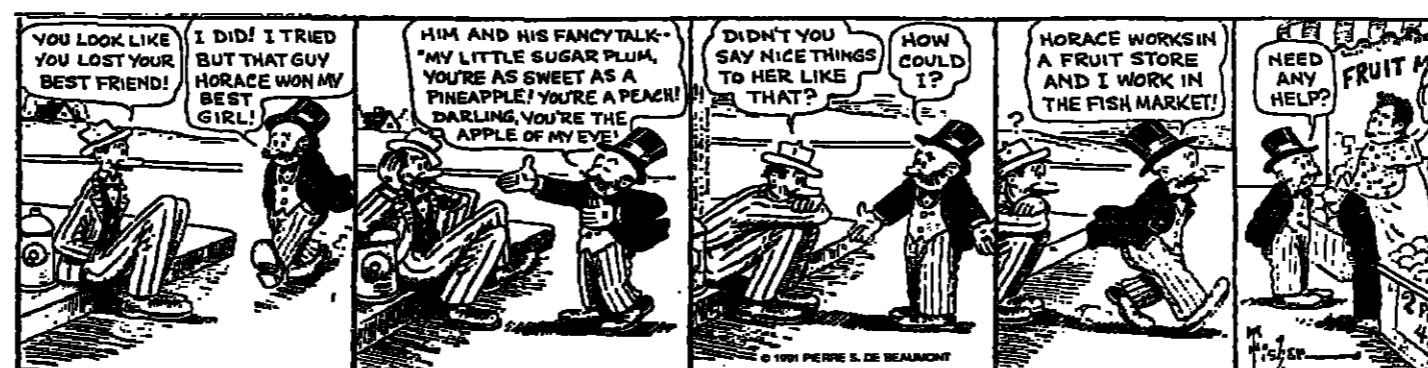
### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt 'n' Jeff



### Sao Paulo wins state title

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Sao Paulo tied Corinthians 0-0 to win the Sao Paulo state tournament while Flamengo battled to a draw with Fluminense in the first game of the Rio state finals. Sao Paulo, the defending national champion, needed only a tie to win the title due to its 3-0 trouncing of Corinthians in the opening playoff game last Sunday. The champions dominated the play, but their careful defence resulted in a slow game. Rai, the state's top scorer with 20 goals — including all three in last week's match — had a few opportunities but was unable to score against Corinthian goalie Ronaldo. In Rio, Flamengo dominated play, but had to settle for a 1-1 draw. Fluminense took the lead at the 22nd minute on a penalty shot by Ezio but Flamengo struck back two minutes later when Paulo Nunes headed the ball past the outstretched arms of Fluminense goalie Ricardo Pinto.

### Spain-Albania soccer match postponed

MADRID (AP) — European soccer officials concerned for Spanish players' safety Monday postponed a match with Albania in Tirana this week. Spanish national team players learned the European Championships qualifying match was off as they prepared to fly to the Albanian capital, where severe food shortages have triggered rioting. The match had been scheduled for Wednesday. "The Albanian Federation cannot guarantee that the game will be played under normal circumstances and has been unable to guarantee the security of either Spanish players or the UEFA delegate," the Geneva-based body said in a telex sent Monday to both soccer federations. The UEFA said it had been trying unsuccessfully to contact Albanian soccer officials since Friday. An official in the UEFA press office said there were no immediate plans to reschedule the game. The result of the match would have no bearing on the Group 1 standings. Both Spain and Albania failed to win a berth to next year's final round in Sweden, losing out to unbeaten France.

### Czech star quits Aston Villa

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — After spending 13 months battling injury, Czechoslovak soccer player Ivo Stas has quit England's Aston Villa without ever playing a competitive match for the team. Signed from Banik Ostrava for \$540,000, Stas, 26, has been told his nagging Achilles tendon injury will not survive the rigors of an English season, the club said. Villa will receive a \$900,000 insurance pay-out because of the injury, but manager Ron Atkinson said it was a bad blow for the player and the team. "If he hadn't picked up the injury he could well have developed into a Jan Moelby type of player, as I was hoping to play him in midfield," said Atkinson, in a reference to Liverpool's cultured Dane, who can play either in midfield or defence. "Stas has trained every day this season, but three specialists have confirmed he would not be able to stand the rigors of the English first division."

### Nannini undergoes operation

FLORENCE, (R) — Italian motor racing driver Alessandro Nannini had another operation on the forearm he severed in a helicopter crash last year. Nannini had his right forearm sewn back on after the crash and this latest operation on the tendons was designed to enable him to close his hand more easily. "The operation was a complete success and all we have to do now is wait," said surgeon Carlo Bufalini. The former Benetton driver was injured when his helicopter crashed near his parents' villa outside Siena in Tuscany. He has already driven a racing car in tests at the Mugello Circuit and said in October he was 99 per cent certain of returning to Formula One in March 1992.

### Manchester's Olympic bid wins support

LONDON (R) — The British government has promised to fund a feasibility study by the city of Manchester on a bid to stage the 2000 Olympics and said it would decide on further financial support by the end of February. An official at Prime Minister John Major's office said Mr. Major agreed in a meeting with the Manchester Organising Committee to make up to £2 million (\$3.6 million) available for a feasibility study into the bid. This was needed before there could be a firm commitment to provide government support to back the bid and help build new sports facilities if the games were brought to Manchester, in Northern England. The bid must be submitted to the International Olympic Committee by April next year. Mr. Major, a keen sports fan, has been more enthusiastic towards a British Olympics bid than his predecessor Margaret Thatcher, but remained cautious about committing government funds. "Very large sums (are) potentially at stake and the implications would need to be considered very carefully," the official said.

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1991

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18, 1991  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: As Mercury goes direct today you will find the logjam of blocked activity unleashed. Plan on changing your plans to day and expect to accomplish a great deal without equal effort.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) The very early morning is excellent for utilising some generated energy to your advantage but later in the day finds you in a hot pot of discord.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You need to be most careful you do nothing whatever that could annoy one in a powerful position and to handle credit matters with exactness.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Now you find you have all sorts of demands upon you where some new activity is concerned but make your plans early and don't make sudden changes.

MONS CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You would like to get out from under some pressure you feel is more than you can bear but you'd find it waiting you even more difficult to do later.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have some associates who you don't know what to expect from next so go along cautiously and do nothing to stir up his latent animosity.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Show now you are the one who

can keep steadfastly at the work expected of you despite some pretty heavy pressure to get involved in gossip.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Whatever now awaits you that requires you to keep a smile even when you are presented with some new developments.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Matters at your workplace can be quite hectic unless you remain cool and objective when tensions do rise there with others.

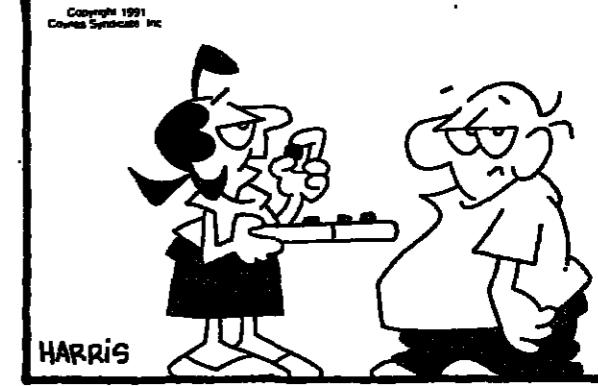
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Use more than average care in motion whether on the highway or in buildings or you could come an expensive cropper.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You want to let fly in all directions but if you can be up early and decide how to handle surrounding problems you can save yourself considerable trouble.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You want to burst out from under those limitations that you feel are more than you can bear but look at them and handle them impersonally.

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Eating chocolate is good for a woman my age. Zits make me look younger!"

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLING WORD GAME -

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



## Baker told Soviet military will stay out of politics

BISHKEK, Soviet Union (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has been assured that the Soviet military will stay out of politics despite a radical transformation of the former Communist superpower, a senior U.S. official said Tuesday.

The official also said Soviet Defense Minister Yevgeny Shaposhnikov expects to become the commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the new commonwealth of independent states formed last week by Russia, Ukraine and Byelorussia.

The official, who asked not to be named, was speaking to reporters as Mr. Baker flew to Bishkek, capital of the Central Asian Republic of Kyrgyzstan, on a tour to evaluate the gradual collapse of the Soviet Union.

Discussing a meeting Mr. Baker held Monday with Gen. Shaposhnikov and Russian leader Boris Yeltsin, the official said: "What we got was a pretty clear reflection of a military that is not going to intrude in politics."

The official said Mr. Baker had the impression that the armed forces were "a professional military which sits apart from politics

and ... will reconcile themselves to arrangements which are worked out."

The U.S. administration is worried that the armed forces, increasingly tired of the political chaos enveloping the country, could take control in a bid to restore order.

Robert Strauss, the U.S. ambassador to Moscow, has described the forces as "the wild card" in Soviet politics.

Mr. Baker held 10 hours of talks Monday, first with Mr. Yeltsin and then President Mikhail Gorbachev, who is fighting an increasingly desperate battle to keep his post.

Mr. Gorbachev has been undergoing the death of a thousand cuts since last August's failed hardline coup, watching his powers being stripped away one by one.

*He is still nominally commander-in-chief, but Russia wants him to hand over this authority as well.*

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has already announced he was taking control of the armed forces on his territory and on Tuesday Azerbaijani leader

Ayaz Mutalibov followed suit.

Mr. Yeltsin Monday gave Mr. Baker details of plans for military control in the commonwealth, reiterating its members would sign a defence treaty providing for a joint forces command.

"In the context of looking at how the commonwealth is going to operate, he (Shaposhnikov) talks about this defence alliance ... and says he will be the commander-in-chief of this defence alliance," the official said.

Washington regards Mr. Akayev as a model advocate for democracy in Central Asia.

Meanwhile the lower chamber of the effectively defunct Soviet parliament said Tuesday President Gorbachev should resign because he had done nothing to stop the disintegration of the country.

"As the Soviet president has kept himself aloof from important national and state issues, we raise the question of his resignation," said an appeal adopted by the chamber and addressed to republican leaders and parliaments.

The lower chamber's decision has no constitutional standing. It illustrates the collapse of central authority personified by Mr. Gorbachev, after a new agreement to create a commonwealth of independent states which proclaimed the Soviet Union dead.

Mr. Baker Monday also said the United States would consider

recognising Russia and Ukraine as independent states, underlining Gorbachev's precarious position.

Mr. Baker met Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev and said afterwards he had "taken note and admired the president's commitment to democratisation."

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## Azeri president declares himself army commander

MOSCOW (AP) — President Ayaz Mutalibov of Azerbaijan declared himself commander-in-chief of all non-strategic armed forces on the territory of his troubled republic, news agencies reported Tuesday.

But the regional Interior Ministry troop commander said the troops should be withdrawn from the region because the decision to post them there was taken "at a time when the Soviet Union existed," the Soviet military newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star) reported Tuesday.

"Now that Armenia and Azerbaijan are independent states, a different legal basis is needed to keep our forces there," Maj.-Gen. A. Kulikov was quoted as telling Krasnaya Zvezda.

The newspaper identified Gen. Kulikov as chief of Soviet Interior Ministry troops for the Northern Caucasus and Transcaucasia, which includes Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Mr. Mutalibov is the second president of a republic to claim control over Soviet forces and weapons, following Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev still retains the title of commander-in-chief of the Soviet Union's arsenal of 27,000 nuclear weapons and 3.5 million military personnel.

The leaders of the new Commonwealth of Independent States, having claimed control over military policy, have refused to guarantee he will hold that job much longer.

The Azerbaijan Defence Ministry said Tuesday it did not know how many Soviet army and Interior Ministry troops were based in the republic, but past reports have indicated there are

at least tens of thousands. Azerbaijan is not one of the four Soviet republics which houses nuclear weapons.

The Caucasus mountains region has been locked in a bloody conflict with the neighbouring Republic of Armenia for nearly four years over control of Nagorno-Karabakh, a mainly Armenian enclave located inside Azerbaijan.

In a separate development, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan introduced a state of emergency in a region where local residents stopped a train and took 70 passengers hostage Monday. The Soviet News Agency TASS reported.

The train was going through the Armenian district of Megri from Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, to Nakhichevan, an Armenian region near the border with Turkey.

TASS said the prisoners were taken in retaliation for the capture by Azeri forces of three Armenians last month.

At least nine people were killed and 16 wounded over the last 24 hours in Nagorno-Karabakh, TASS said Monday.

Moscow radio said Azeri special police opened fire on the regional capital Stepanakert and four Armenian villages.

The situation in Stepanakert remains extremely difficult. There is no flour, the bread factory has stopped. One third of the town has no water supply," the radio said.

Mr. Ter-Petrosyan's decision to introduce a state of emergency for three months in the Megri district was backed by the Armenian Parliament. It provided for a night curfew, the Armenian News Agency Snark said.

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Bush approval rating slips to 47%

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush's approval rating has slipped to the lowest level of his presidency, driven down by doubts over his handling of the economy, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll. Bush's approval rating has fallen to 47 per cent, according to the survey published in Tuesday editions of the Washington Post and which was reported Monday night on ABC's World News Tonight. Six weeks ago 59 per cent of Americans approved of the way Mr. Bush was handling his job, according to the poll, which said concern over jobs and the economy appeared to account for the decline. The poll was a survey of 1,512 randomly selected adults conducted from Dec. 11 through Dec. 15. The margin of sampling error was plus or minus 3 per cent. The poll was conducted by Chilton Research of Radnor. Nearly nine in 10 of those polled characterised the economy as "not so good" or "poor." Just one in 10 called the economy "good" or "excellent."

Mr. Olszewski was the third politician to try and fail to form a government since Poland's first free post-war parliamentary elections on Oct. 27 returned a deeply fragmented parliament with little possibility of forming a stable majority.

Mr. Olszewski, former Solidarity leader, headed a five-party centre-right coalition that crumbled under the strain of trying to agree on an economic programme.

Two parties abandoned the alliance last week — the Free Market Liberal Democratic Congress (KLD) of outgoing Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki and the Nationalist Confederation for Independent Poland (KPN).

Mr. Krzysztof Krol, a leader of the KPN, told reporters Tuesday Mr. Olszewski would present his resignation to parliament.

Mr. Olszewski's bid collapsed partly because a head-on collision with Mr. Walesa, who refused his support in a fundamental disagreement over economic policy.

Mr. Olszewski proposed an anti-recession policy to soften the industrial collapse and soaring unemployment into which Poland has sunk under the impact of the first two Solidarity governments.

Andries will not be brought to justice but New Zealand has to uphold international law... I suppose in a way you could say the French have got away with it," Mr. Graham told a news conference.

"But international condemnation of France remains," he said, adding there was a prima facie case for manslaughter against Mr. Andries. A Greenpeace photographer was killed in the blast.

Greenpeace said its lawyers would seek an injunction against the government's decision.

"Our attorneys will be there (in court) first thing in the morning New Zealand time," Greenpeace International Executive Director Steve Sawyer told Reuters from the environmentalist group's headquarters in Amsterdam.

A spokesman for the group of New Zealand accused Mr. Graham of backing down on a previous commitment not to interfere in the judicial process.

"It's gutless, they have caved in. They have made a political decision when they said there's no recession," Ms. Howe said. "He should have called us — we could have told him."

The news is not all bad.

The General Service Administration says it has channelled more than \$207 million worth of food and other items left over from the Gulf war to non-profit food programmes.

Some organisations said Christmas giving was good.

Lee Ann Wright, director of the Charles County Children's Aid Society in St. Charles, Maryland, said giving to the society's annual Christmas connection has been "enormous."

"We have less to give away than last year because the donations didn't come through," said Dorothy Durham, director of Citizen Community Development Corp., which distributes holiday food baskets in Buffalo, New York.

In Aurora, layoffs at the Cater-

pillar Tractor Plant contributed to a 30 per cent increase in the demand for food baskets, said Judie Newberry, director of the Interface Pantry.

At soup kitchens in Baltimore, the Christmas baskets will be smaller than usual.

The homeless families that come into our friends' place in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, "are in worse shape," says Shelter Director Jim Hamilton.

As the recession drags on, the ranks of those in need are increasing and the resources of those usually able to help are becoming strained, a survey of the Associated Press shows.

"Some people who were in the donor ranks last year are in the receiver ranks this year," said Stephen Gibbs, executive director of the Free-store Foodbank in Cincinnati.

But people are still digging into their pockets and pantries to help those less well off. "The public is mindful that times are bad," said Mr. Gibbs.

Despite the best intentions, though, donations are down in many places.

At the Alameda County Food Bank in Oakland, California, food and money contributions have dipped 20 per cent in recent months, Executive Director John Monner said.

"We have less to give away than last year because the donations didn't come through," said Dorothy Durham, director of Citizen Community Development Corp., which distributes holiday food baskets in Buffalo, New York.

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